Lending Institutions (PLIs) including the Commercial Banks. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has, however, a refinance scheme for the PLIs in respect of financial assistance extended by them for rehabilitation of sick SSI units.

(b) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government have announced a Comprehensive Policy Package which consists of *inter-alia* enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Production and demand of Khadi Industry

†2727. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of future production capacity and demand of Khadi Industry during the ensuing decade;

(b) whether Government have discussed this matter with the Commerce Ministry to identify markets for Khadi garments for export; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide subsidies to the Khadi producers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. However, a Subgroup (on KVI Sector) of Working Group on Small Scale Industry (SSI) for 10th Plan has formulated production and employment targets under Khadi upto 2006-07.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normal rebate and special rebates are given by the KVIC. Under the Khadi Package, announced on 14.5.2001, these rebates are envisaged to continue for 5 years.

New Avenues for KVIC

2728. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether is is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission proposes to diversify its activities by taking up the items other than Khadi products;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.